

District III Advisory Board Minutes
January 7, 2009
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The District III Advisory Board meeting was held at 7 p.m. at the Wichita Water Center at 101 E Pawnee. Ten District Advisory Board members were in attendance; 19 City staff and 22 members of the public were present.

Members Present

Teresa Cook
Judy Dillard
Charlotte Foster
Jim Gulick
Joann Hartig
Paula Hearn
John Kemp
Dustin Richey
Billie Tucker
Bill Ward
Council Member Jim Skelton

Members Absent

DeWayne Kitchen

Staff Present

Sgt. Allen Wolf, Patrol East
Deputy Chief Tom Stolz, WPD
Division Chief Joe Couey, WFD

Battalion Chief Kim Anderson, WFD
Officer David Hinnners, Patrol East
Lt. Jeff Pike, Patrol South
Officer Ginny Wylie, Patrol South
Lt. Scott Heimerman, Patrol South
Sgt. Brett Stull, Patrol South
Officer Ann Mackey, Patrol East
Officer Chris Welsh, Patrol South
Mike Vinson, Transit
Kay Johnson, Environmental Services
Dwayne Chew, WFD
Darren Matthews, WFD
Ryan Hale, WFD
Jason Nelson, WFD
Tim Gosha, WFD
Janet Johnson, Neighborhood Services

Guests

Listed on the last page

ORDER OF BUSINESS

At 7 p.m. **Council Member Jim Skelton** called the meeting to order. The meeting minutes from Dec. 3, 2008, were approved **10-0**.

PUBLIC AGENDA

Scheduled items

No items

Non-Scheduled items

No items

STAFF REPORTS

Community Police Report

Officer Claudale Cavanaugh, 26 Beat Patrol South, reported there had been seven residential burglaries on her beat last month. She also said there is a lot of bright orange gang graffiti. It has been turned in and should be removed soon.

Officer David Hinnars, 35 Beat Patrol East, said things have been fairly quiet on his beat – some graffiti. They have also worked a special project at East High addressing truancy that has been successful.

Officer Ginny Wylie, 25 Beat Patrol South, reported things have been quiet on her beat – some graffiti, but no crime hot spots or trends.

Wichita Fire Department Report

Battalion Chief Kim Anderson reported during the month of November, Fire made 441 calls in District 3 with 71 percent being medical calls.

He also shared that construction of Station 22 at Denker and Hydraulic is moving along. The cinder blocks are up and the station should be open and operational by early summer.

Council Member Skelton thanked Fire and Police for the good work they do.

Charlotte Foster asked if they know what the cause of the fire was in the 200 block of S. Ridgewood. **BC Anderson** said it appears to be electrical in nature.

Action: Receive and file.

NEW BUSINESS

EPA Care Grant

Elizabeth Ablah, University of Kansas School of Medicine, presented information on an Environmental Protection Agency CARE grant in the amount of \$100,000. This funding will be used to identify the perceptions and concerns of environmental issues of Wichita for a two year period. The CARE grant will offer the community an opportunity to identify and prioritize environmental concerns within their neighborhoods and the community at large. **Ablah** said this is a grass roots effort and is strictly voluntary.

Council Member Skelton asked how much time will be required of the volunteers. **Ablah** said the maximum would be an hour and a half meeting every two weeks.

Joann Hartig asked when the meetings are. **Ablah** said so far they have been in the evenings.

Charlotte Foster asked if a representative could come to her Neighborhood Association meeting. **Ablah** said either she or Jack Brown would attend.

Bill Davis, 1818 S. Main, also confirmed attendance for his Neighborhood Association meeting.

Action: Receive and file.

Proposed changes to Ordinance 3.28, 4.04, 4.12, & 4.16 of the city code regarding Entertainment Establishments & Drinking Establishments

WPD Deputy Chief Tom Stolz reviewed the proposed ordinance amendments dealing with establishments that sell cereal malt beverage or alcohol. He reviewed the process and noted that he attended around 15 community meetings seeking input on the topic which he took back to the staff committee. The following changes have been outlined in the ordinance revisions:

- Creation of a single license for an Entertainment Establishment as opposed to separate dance hall and/or cabaret licensing.
- Licensing of event centers where the premises are rented on a continual basis as an Entertainment Establishment.
- Increased licensing fees for Entertainment Establishments.
- Requiring Entertainment Establishments to provide and post the names of all on site managers.
- Require Entertainment Establishments to maintain adequate security personnel as determined by the Chief of Police at time of license application.
- Require that Entertainment Establishment managers maintain the peace and appropriate control of patrons and/or invitees both upon the licensed premises as well the surrounding vicinity such as parking lots, sidewalks, & waiting areas.
- Requiring that Entertainment Establishments control their litter.
- Requiring Entertainment Establishments to provide unrestricted, immediate access to city inspectors.
- Restricting patrons over 21 from being on the premises of any Teen Club.
- Requiring a distance of at least 300 feet between residential zoning and all newly licensed Entertainment Establishments that sell alcoholic liquor or cereal malt beverage for consumption on the premises.

DC Stolz said none of these changes are etched in stone; he expects the revised ordinance will go to City Council for approval some time in March.

Charlotte Foster wanted to know how the Police Department determines whether an establishment is meeting its food sales requirement. **DC Stolz** said police staff audits the establishment's books and he noted that most legitimate establishments have an accountant, or they can contact the food vendor and check on how much food is being purchased for resale.

Bill Ward asked if there are different levels of security. **DC Stolz** explained the difference between, unarmed, semi-armed and fully armed.

Joann Hartig said she is tired of police having to baby sit these clubs at closing time. She said the clubs should provide their own security so police can attend to other calls.

DC Stolz said each new establishment will be required to have a CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) assessment, but they will not be required to implement any of the recommended changes.

Joann Hartig said she felt like outside lighting should be required.

Bill Ward said he would like to see more, or brighter, lighting at closing time both inside and outside the establishment.

John Kemp asked how long it will take to get a club closed down if it is found to be in violation of City ordinance. **DC Stolz** said they will have to work hard on getting violations expedited through the court system. He explained that only “convictions” can be used to close a club down, not “citations.”

Kemp also wanted to know how many times some one can open a club in various locations. **DC Stolz** said that isn’t real clear in the ordinance and they probably need to clean that up.

Teresa Cook wanted to know more about the Safe Bar class requirement. **DC Stolz** said this is a concept they took from another city. He explained it is a four-hour class where they try to create some accountability by addressing safety, ingress and egress from the club, relationships with police, fire and OCI, etc. He said the class will most likely be offered twice a month and they would like to include a representative from the neighborhood who could talk about the neighborhood perspective.

Judy Dillard said she was still concerned about the fact that a club could receive multiple violations before the first violation is ever litigated. **DC Stolz** said he understood her concerns, but typically, lawyers only want to deal with conviction that have gone before a Judge and been found valid.

Charlotte Foster wanted to know if there is any way the City could require a club to get neighborhood approval before opening. **DC Stolz** said this isn’t possible.

John Kemp wanted to know if existing clubs will be required to adhere to the changes being recommended. **DC Stolz** said yes, they would have to when their license is renewed, with the exception of the 300’ distance part.

Elena Ingle, 3608 Meadow Lane, said she liked the idea of notifying the neighborhood, but wanted to know how areas that don’t have Neighborhood Associations would be notified. **DC Stolz** said the plan is that the Community Policing Officer would distribute flyers in the four reporting districts that surround the property where the proposed club would go in.

James Burleigh, 2110 S. Water, asked if the proposed ordinance had soft language that would make it difficult to hold clubs accountable. **DC Stolz** said the ordinance contains hard language, with the exception of the CPTED recommendations.

James Roseboro, 4518 Greenbriar, said there were concerns at the DAB 1 meeting about the “three strikes you’re out” portion. He said club owners said if that were the case, they wouldn’t call police. **DC Stolz** said it has nothing to do with calling the police. He explained the “three strikes” portion is for violations, not 911 calls. He said clubs can call police as much as they want and as long as they have no violations, it will never be an issue.

Frank Shofler, 2050 S. Broadway, said he wished there were something in the ordinance that addressed clubs that are allowed to operate under non conforming use. He specifically noted the club located next to his property. **DC Stolz** said he would have staff check into it.

David Robbins, 920 Silverdale Ct., asked if the ordinance will give police probable cause to go into clubs and harass people. **DC Stolz** explained that police routinely do club checks, which does not involved harassing people. **Robbins** said expecting unarmed security personnel to deal with unruly patrons could put them in a real spot, and he wanted to know if the club would be cited for calling police in an instance like that. **DC Stolz** said “no, what would we cite them for?”

Judy Dillard (Kemp) made a motion to recommend approval of the amended ordinance and forward it to City Council.

Action: Motion passed 9-1.

Proposed Southside Transit Connector Service

Mike Vinson, Director of Wichita Transit, presented the proposed Southside connector service. Wichita Transit has received several requests for fixed route bus service extensions to serve Youthville and the new Wichita Area Technical College. In order to address these requests, they have proposed a new route named the Southside Connector.

Wichita Transit currently operates the South Main route with three buses on a 45 minute schedule instead of the 30 minute schedule that is common to all but two other routes. The additional bus was instituted to allow for extended service to the Oaklawn Improvement District. By changing the South Main route back to a 30 minute service and utilizing the additional bus to establish a Southside Connector route, Transit will be able to serve the corridor along 47th Street South from Seneca to K-15. The proposed Southside Connector would facilitate transfers from both the South Seneca and South Main routes.

Vinson said they were pleased to be able to add this service at no additional cost; however, they will be approaching Sedgwick County to pick up a portion of the cost of this route. He said that WATC and **Council Member Fearey** got this project jumpstarted and Transit is trying to get it implemented as quickly as possible, hopefully by February.

Joann Hartig said she lives on Main Street and she is tired of buses speeding down her street.

Vinson said this new route should actually help with that because the buses won’t be under so much pressure in trying to remain on schedule because they won’t be tied to the transit “wheel” system.

Hartig wanted to know if the routes were planned and timed for a bus driving the speed limit.

Vinson assured her this was so.

Vinson said part of what causes the bus drivers to rush is the increase in ridership. He said in 2008 ridership went up five percent nationally, but it went up 14.5 percent in Wichita and they are sustaining the new ridership in Wichita. He explained that the city growth also contributes to the problem. To add just one bus to the system costs approximately \$500,000 the first year and approximately \$200,000 every year after.

Bill Ward asked if transit plans on adding more of these types of connector routes. **Vinson** said the new Transit Advisory Board has been tasked to come up with a vision and they sell it to the community. He said the City needs to get away from the current system which operates like a wheel with spokes. He said it's not effective and it's difficult to understand. For example, someone who lives in Southwest Wichita who is trying to get to the Social Security Office in Northeast Wichita can count on spending two hours and taking four buses in order to get there. He said that is not acceptable for a city the size of Wichita.

Charlotte Foster pointed out that part of the reason Sedgwick County decided to move some of its operations to Office This is because it's on a bus route. **Vinson** said Transit is going to have a lot of upcoming opportunities.

Judy Dillard said she hopes the new route will cut down on the number of people who are walking along 47th street, especially on the unsafe bridge.

Vinson said they will implement more benches and shelters along the new route and the points where the new route will connect with the buses coming from downtown will be at MacArthur and Hydraulic and at Seneca and 47th.

Bill Ward (Kemp) made a motion to approve the implementation of the Southside Connector route.

Council Member Skelton said this has been needed for a long time and thanked **Council Member Fearey** for her work on the project.

Action: Motion passed 10-0

Regional Energy Conference

Kay Johnson, Director of Environmental Services, gave an unscheduled presentation on the upcoming Regional Energy Conference. She said Wichita has been very behind the times in terms of going green and this conference promises to be very good.

Action: Receive and file.

BOARD AGENDA

Updates, Issues and Reports

Jim Gulick said he learned that Sedgwick County Drug Court is going to be housed at Office This, the day before it went to the County Commission for approval, and the only reason he found out is because the media called him and asked him about it. He said he wasn't able to find much out from the County, but that Commissioner Welshimer and Public Safety Director Bob Lamkey will attend the Jan. 20 Grandview Heights meeting.

Judy Dillard said the plans for the 47th St. project should be completed by the time the stimulus package is initiated and that she is very hopeful the project will be selected.

Charlotte Foster reported she received assistance from Officer Hinners last week on a property where car repair was occurring in the back yard.

Council Member Skelton said a consultant has been hired to provide a study on the proposed Southeast Community Center. He said ultimately he would like to see a Center that included a library, a senior center, medical clinic, and a recreation center. He said while he is often against hiring consultants, in this case it was necessary in order to develop a business plan and be in a position to go after grants and private funding sources.

John Kemp said the Mennonite Senior Housing complex should be taking applications this summer.

Elena Ingle, 3608 Meadow Lane, announced there are nine new trees in the park at Mt. Vernon and Bluffview.

James Roseboro, 4518 Greenbriar, announced the WIN annual dinner.

Action: Receive and file.

Meeting was adjourned.

The next regularly scheduled meeting for District Advisory Board III will be held at 7 p.m., February 4, 2009, at the Water Center at 101 E. Pawnee.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Johnson, Neighborhood Assistant – District III

Guests

Elena Ingle	3608 Meadow Lane
Frank Shofler	2050 S. Broadway
Don Hansen	2156 S. Topeka
Shirley Hansen	2156 S. Topeka
Lynda Novotny	1209 Jump
Patrick Kennedy	2102 S. Ida
Brenna Kennedy	2102 S. Ida
Bill Davis	1818 S. Main
Carole Campbell	2821 S. Mosley
David Robbins	920 Silverdale Ct.
Paul Davis	6417 S. Madison
Tom Strickland	1302 Galena
Betty Strickland	1302 Galena

Claudia Lee	2826 Greenwood
Donna Thorton	2714 Southfork
Dale Churchman	1357 S. Broadway
Vicki Churchman	1357 S. Broadway
Elizabeth Ablah	1010 N. Kansas
CM Sharon Fearey	
James Burleigh	2110 S. Water
Craig Gable	
James Roseboro	4518 Greenbriar